GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4837
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
PROVISION OF MOBILE TOWER AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Yadav Shri Mitrasen

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to erect tower and to develop other infrastructure required for the expansion of the mobile telephone in the country on the private-public partnership and mutual cooperation;

(b) if so, the total number of towers to be erected on such partnership and mutual cooperation;

(c) the total number of districts to be covered under the scheme; and

(d) the total estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three Service Providers for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless on Local Loop (WLL). The infrastructure in form of towers and provision of mobile services shall be created by both Private and Public Sector Companies. The agreements effective from 01.06.2007 have been signed by USOF with the successful Infrastructure Providers and Service Providers in May 2007.

(d) As per the representative rates arrived as an outcome of the bidding process, total subsidy outgo from USO Fund under this scheme would be about Rs. 587.88 Crore over a period of 5 years.